

Arun District Council, Civic Centre, Maltravers Rd
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 5LF
www.arun.gov.uk

To register to receive notifications of planning applications in your area please go to
<https://www1.arun.gov.uk/planning-application-finder>



From: j holden [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 11:06 AM
To: Planning.Responses <Planning.Responses@arun.gov.uk>
Subject: AL/11/24/OUT

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. You should take extra care when clicking links or opening attachments - if you are unsure the content is safe contact the IT Helpdesk before clicking or opening.

I object to this application.

Firstly this is not a case of 'nimbyism' as I believe most people support and understand that as our population grows, more houses are needed and our area is clearly a desirable place for people to move from areas like London/Croydon etc.

But the volume of housing being proposed here and within the wider BEW strategic site is completely unreasonable to local residents. The large number of properties which have already been built in the area has already had an impact on local infrastructure and the quality of life of existing residents.

As many have already commented, there are a vast number of reasons this application should not be approved.

I have been a resident of Westergate my whole life and the extent of the recent local flooding is unprecedented. It feels too much of a coincidence that roads which have never flooded before have suddenly been closed for extended periods of time this winter. Many of these roads sit directly outside new developments, namely Fontwell Avenue and Barnham Road, where pressure on water systems and the water table appear to have reached their limit.

There have been several occasions where Westergate has been completely cut off from the local area, due to flooding on Nyton Road, Shripney Road, Barnham Road and Fontwell Avenue and the pressure put on the roads when re-opened has resulted in huge pot holes forming which has caused damage to the cars of local residents.

There is already heavy traffic congestion occurring throughout the village, quite likely due to the number of new properties being built. If it is true that the southern leg of the A29 re-alignment project has been postponed indefinitely, these additional cars are only going to add to the problem.

400 houses, 2 cars per household = 800 additional cars feeding on to Westergate Street via a narrow entrance on a blind bend seems completely unreasonable and unsafe. The strain on the existing A29 is already very high with traffic regularly backing up from the level crossing to the Esso petrol station at peak times and with a primary school just round the corner, the extra traffic pouring on to Westergate Street will be dangerous for the children who use these footpaths to walk to school each morning.

I have heard that the alternative access points being considered are Orchard Gardens and Ivy Lane. Both of these access points will result in the same strain being put onto the existing A29 route so shouldn't be considered.

If the A29 alignment is to go ahead, I understand it is due to merge with the existing A29 at Sack Lane in Shripney, a point which has always suffered horrendously with flooding, causing endless misery to the residents of Shripney. Surrounding the new route with housing is surely going to exacerbate this flooding issue?

How is Shripney going to cope with the additional traffic, particularly when you consider that Shripney Road has been closed for extended periods of time this winter.

Looking at this and the wider BEW site, it seems farcical that planning is even being considered without a clear plan and completion of the A29 bypass.

The pressure on drainage systems has seen tankers positioned in the villages permanently throughout the winter and it has been well documented that Southern Water have struggled to deal with waste water issues in recent years. More houses = more waste. Who is paying for this?

It is my understanding that the Lidsey sewage works are already at capacity so where is this waste going to go? Into the Rife?

Or maybe it will be left to overflow on to the fields where these houses are being proposed to be built as has been the case this winter.

Has consideration been made to local services? Dentists, doctors, schools are all at capacity. Social services and mental health services are at breaking point. How are the needs for the new residents going to be met? These services are struggling to meet the needs of existing residents with long waiting lists for dentists, difficulty getting an appointment with GP and year long waits for services such as CAMHS.

On the topic of mental health and as raised at a local meeting with Andrew Griffith MP, the fields in question have provided generations of local residents a quiet recreational space to relax, walk their dogs and spend time surrounded in a peaceful natural surrounding. If residents lose this amenity, I am sure this would have an adverse effect on the mental health of many residents who currently use this space on daily basis.

Perhaps the **most** important factor of all is these ancient fields are home to a wild range of wildlife including foxes, muntjac deer, bats, lizards and small mammals (just some of the wildlife I have seen in these fields in recent months).

Our rear garden backs on to a section to the north of the development where a 'green' space is proposed. This particular field is currently overgrown with brambles and hedgerow and is a haven for wild mammals and birds who take shelter in the natural landscape and forage on the wild blackberries growing there.

There are many birds nesting here and we have had Song Thrushes nesting in the adjoining hedgerow over the last few years. Other regular visitors to the field are Sparrow Hawks, Woodpeckers, Jays, Robins and more common species like starlings, blackbirds, woodpigeons, sparrows along with many other species which I cannot name.

Developers will likely say that they are improving the area by replacing these overgrown fields with open green spaces, but these natural spaces are the perfect habitat for many of our local species and should be protected.

What gives us the right to continually build over these green spaces and destroy established natural habitats?

In summary, it is in my opinion that there is no local need/desire for the additional volume of poorly built houses in our area and this proposal will serve no positive purpose to the local residents/community.

I urge ADC to carefully consider the opinions of the local residents on this matter.

Jamie Holden – Ivy Lane, Westergate.